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Review of Books

LITERARY SECTION OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

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SWINBURNE'S FRIENDSHIPS AND HATREDS

A Collection of Hitherto Unpublished Letters That Have to Do With the Men, Women, and the Literature of Swinburne's Period

By ASHLEY H. THORNDIKE,
(Professor of English, Columbia University.)

THE LETTERS OF ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE. Edited by Edmund Gosse, C. B., and Thomas James Wise. Two volumes. John Lane Company. $5.

LITERATURE is the subject of a large proportion of Swinburne's Letters as they appear in the two volumes edited by Edmund Gosse and Thomas James Wise. Some of the most interesting, to be sure, deal with men rather than art, with the poet's friendships and animosities, or with records of his own experiences. But the continuing interest that runs through these letters, which are dated from 1858 to 1900, is literary. Their themes are books and authors, questions of metrical workmanship or critical interpretation, comments on many periods of the world's drama and poetry.

Public affairs intrude very rarely. In 1861, when remarking that Landor's libels may churn up the British public to an eternal smash, Swinburne adds, "which, by the by, America seems to be at this writing." The Italian struggle for independence, in which he was intensely interested, receives scarcely more notice than the American civil war. The proclamation of the French Republic, 1870, is mentioned merely in connection with the "Ode," "written, copied, and dispatched in two days." Neither the affairs of the British Empire, nor home politics, nor the many problems of theology, science, and industry that were being debated, come up for discussion between Swinburne and his correspondents. Gladstone drops in occasionally to receive a little abuse, but Swinburne's interests in politics, which were vivid enough, rarely find expression here. In a letter to Stedman he relates how he was once offered a seat in Parliament by a radical group, and consulted Mazzini as to his duty in the matter, and when Mazzini told him that his natural road of service was in literature and that he would be wasting his time and strength in Parliament, Swinburne adds, "I never was more relieved in my life than when I felt I could dismiss the application with a wholly clear conscience." Assuredly, we would rather hear from Swinburne on literature than on politics, but one cannot avoid regretting that he did not have one chance to let loose the vials of his peculiar and copiously worded wrath upon the heads of a modern Parliament.

Though these volumes deal largely with literary criticism, this criticism is full of Swinburne's personality. So, indeed, are all his critical essays, with their extravagances of admiration or condemnation, but here we have his opinions and appreciations written down without thought of a public and without much attention to consistency. The opinions and judgments, whether long considered or hastily formed on the moment, are recorded with entire frankness, and usually with characteristic intensity.

The Letters furnish a survey of Victorian literature, of which Swinburne himself certainly made no small part. Born three years before the great Queen came to the throne, he began writing at a time when Carlyle, Tennyson, Browning, and Dickens were among the chief forces in literature, and he pays his tribute again and again to all four, as he reads their works fresh from the press. In 1865 he writes:

> I am raging in silence at the postponement from day to day of Mr. Carlyle's volumes. He ought to be in London tying firebrands to the tails of those unclean foxes called publishers and printers. Meantime the world is growing lean with hunger and ravenous with expectation. I finished the fourth volume last May in a huge garden at Fiesole, the nightingales and roses serving by way of salt and spice to the divine dish of battles and intrigues. I take greater delight in the hero, who was always a hero of mine and more comprehensible to my heathen mind than any Puritan, at every step the book takes.

This hero in whom Swinburne takes delight is Frederick the Great; but, even under Carlyle's sway, Swinburne cannot quite enjoy the Prussian's verses:

> I only draw the line at his verses; and even they have almost a merit of their own by dint of their supreme demerits. As extremes meet, such portentous infamy in the metrical line becomes an inverted sign of genius. But was such a litter of doggerels whelped before by wise man or fool?

Browning's "The Ring and the Book" evokes no less enthusiasm than Carlyle's "Frederick."

> What a wonderful work this is of Browning's. I tore through the first volume in a day of careful study, with a sense of absolute possession. I have not felt so strongly that delightful sense of being mastered—dominated—by another man's imaginative work since I was a small boy. I always except, of course, Victor Hugo's, which has the same force and insight and variety of imagination together with that exquisite bloom and flavor of the highest poetry which Browning's has not; though it has perhaps a more wonderful subtlety at once and breadth of humorous invention and perception.

As for interest, it simply kills all other matters of thought for the time. This is his real work—big enough to give him breathing space, whereas in play or song he is alike cramped. It is of the mixed-political composite-dramatic order which alone suits him and serves him.

Concerning Tennyson, as indeed the other early Victorians, Swinburne had some qualifications, but he writes: "What a divine and transcendent poem is Tennyson's 'Rispah'!" and elsewhere he protests, "Not that I am disloyal to Tennyson, into whose church we were all in my time born and baptized as far back as we can remember at all." Of Dickens little is said except the expression of great satisfaction on learning that Tolstoy, in 1903, had declared that "all Dickens's characters are my personal friends. I am constantly comparing them with living persons and living persons with them, and what a spirit there was in all he wrote." This brought a characteristic hyperbole from Swinburne. "The appreciation of so great a man as Tolstoy—so glorious a genius and so glorious a personality—does what no other living man's could do—it adds a crowning ray of glory to the fame of Dickens."

Of the later Victorians many were Swinburne's intimate friends, and appear frequently in his letters. Rossetti and Morris are loved as friends and admired as poets; George Meredith, an old friend, is admired, though warned of his addiction to epigrams; Lord Morley is addressed now as friend and now as editor. But the three great gods of his idolatry were Landor, Victor Hugo, and Mazzini. To these he has paid full tribute elsewhere, but their names occur often here and are never mentioned except in terms of the deepest reverence.

There is mention too of many American authors of the half century traversed by the letters, and many courteous and appreciative words to American correspondents. It is interesting to find that Swinburne admired Whitman for his superb music. "Now, when Whitman is not speaking bad prose he sings, and when he sings at all he sings well." Longfellow is awarded "a pretty little pipe of his own," but Swinburne failed to find any song in Lowell and even less in Emerson. "In the name of all bagpipes, what is the tune of Emerson's?" But of all American poets it was Poe who won his warmest admiration and "the firm conviction that widely as the fame of Poe has already spread, and deeply as it is already rooted in Europe, it is even now growing wider and striking deeper as time advances: the surest presage that time, the eternal enemy of small and shallow reputations, will prove in this case also the constant and trusty friend and keeper of a true poet's full-grown fame."

As the nineteenth century recedes from our view there is a tendency to employ the term Victorian with a certain condescension, especially as applied to literature. Swinburne was in many ways an innovator and a radical, and he had violent words for some of the Victorian pruderies and pieties, but everywhere in his letters he gives full recognition of the greatness of the period in which he lived, its greatness in letters and in men, both English and American.

Of another period of English literature, he writes with even more wholehearted enthusiasm, the age of Shakespeare. He made his first acquaintance with the Elizabethan dramatists while a schoolboy through Charles Lamb's volume of selections, and his admiration for those amazing poets continued until the day of his death. Many of these letters are in response to inquiries from editors for his judgment as to authorship or text or interpretation. Any question about a forgotten play or a disputed reading won from him an instant response, and there seems to have been no Elizabethan play too obscure or too trivial for his interest. He does, indeed, balk at Ben Jonson's "Cynthia's Revels," surely the dullest play ever written by a man of real dramatic talent, but with this exception his appreciation is boundless. And he is very eager to lavish praise on two favorites

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WAR AS RUPERT HUGHES SEES IT

A Novel That Deals With a Little-Known Phase of the Great Conflict—Latest Fiction

THE CUP OF FURY. By Rupert Hughes. Illustrated. Harper & Brothers. $1.75 net.

AFTER the great success of his war novel, "The Unpardonable Sin," one could hardly expect Mr. Rupert Hughes to do other than come forward with another war story. And that is what he has done, though "The Cup of Fury" deals with a phase of the conflict quite unlike that one which was depicted in the earlier book. While the opening scenes are laid in London, the greater part of the action takes place in and around Washington, and the struggle between the hard-working, patriotic shipbuilders and the spies and anarchists who infested the yards and did their very best to aid Germany, either by the extreme method of blowing up the yards and planting bombs on the ships, or by the less dangerous but perhaps even more contemptible one known as sabotage, forms the main theme of the book, though, of course, the customary love story is not omitted.

The description of the shipyard where Ross Davidge, patriot, man of action and of dreams, is striving to build ships faster than the U-boats can sink them, is by all odds the most interesting part of the novel. The building and the tragic fate of the doomed Clara hold the reader's attention firmly, and there is a thrill in the account of the launching of Ross Davidge's second ship. Davidge, who is the hero of the novel, a 100 per cent. American, had much to contend with. German agents in general, and one especially contemptible spy in particular, had resolved to destroy his ships and if possible his entire plant; among the large force of workmen he employed there were those who were more or less secretly fomenting discontent, preaching anarchy, declaring the war to be a war of capitalists with which the workingmen had no concern, and regarding work itself as "a crime against the sacred cause of the laboring man," while even of the more intelligent and loyal ones: "All in all, the shipbuilders loafed horribly * * * in spite of the appeals for hulls to carry food to the starving and troops to the anxious battlefronts of Europe." And as if these were not enough troubles for Davidge to contend with, Governmental orders changed the specifications for a single ship no less than three times, the third in the series of changes requiring the builders "to take out all we've put in, make a new set of drawings and a new set of castings and pretty blamed near tear down the whole ship and rebuild it." The chapters dealing with Davidge's business affairs provide, in short, a well-drawn and vivid picture of one of the most important and interesting phases of America's war activities, while giving at the same time an opportunity for some very sensible comments concerning the struggle sure to come after the war.

Next in interest to the account of the shipyard is the attitude of the heroine, Marie Louise, toward her own "past." When her lover asks for some of the details of her autobiography she definitely and openly skips a particular period, and later declares that "in the new marriage a man must do what a woman has had to do all along—take the partner for better or worse and no questions asked." The point is but incidentally touched upon, and the history of the early career of Marie Louise, otherwise "Mamise," is never fully revealed, though the author hints that she has not been one of those who "magically retained their innocence through years of evil environment." This situation, and Davidge's acceptance of it, make a point at once interesting and debatable, and the reader rather regrets that Mr. Hughes should have slipped over it so lightly.

The story opens in London, where the American-born Marie Louise is living most luxuriously as the adopted daughter of Sir Joseph and Lady Webling. Both Sir Joseph and his wife are elderly people of German birth, naturalized English citizens for years, and have lived so long in England—where Sir Joseph made all his money—that nearly every one has forgotten their Teutonic origin. The time is the second year of the war, and Sir Joseph and his wife are lavish in their gifts to the Red Cross and to all sorts of war funds and charities, as well as in their subscriptions to Government loans, with the not unnatural result that scarcely any one suspects them of being other than thoroughly English in their sympathies. Marie Louise, who is herself entirely pro-Ally, never has a doubt of them until after the sinking of the Lusitania. But that never-to-be-forgotten crime has only just been committed when she discovers that the supposedly harmless German governess of the Weblings's two little grandchildren has been teaching them to pray "Thank God for making sink that Lusitania!" Horror-stricken, as well she might be, she tells Lady Webling what she has heard. To her amazement, the news is calmly received and the governess but mildly rebuked. But though Marie Louise's suspicions are awakened, and then increased by various small but significant incidents, her intense gratitude to her adopted parents causes her to allow them to use her as a tool for the furtherance of their pro-German activities. Of course, there is a smash-up, and Marie Louise is sent back to her own country, the Secret Service of the United States being previously warned of her associations and advised to keep an eye on her. After a time she meets Abbie, the elder sister from whom she had parted when she herself was only about 16, and who has become the wife of one Jake Nuddle, cad, coward, idler, fool, and traitor, who talks about the laborers seizing all the industries and banks, and so forth, and has an ardent objection to

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any form of work for himself, though quite willing that his wife should support him by taking in washing. First in London and later in overcrowded, wartime Washington, Marie Louise has encountered Ross Davidge, the shipbuilder; she asks him to give Jake a job, and herself presently goes to work in the yards. The resultant complications are fairly numerous, and are increased by the presence of the German spy who to save himself had turned state's evidence against the Weblings and so escaped from England. The adventures of Marie Louise, however, are principally important in the opportunity they provide for an interesting description of certain aspects of the labor problem, as well as of the shipping industry.

THE SILENT MILL

THE SILENT MILL. By Hermann Sudermann. Brentano's. $1.25 net.

THE repulsion and utter loathing which the sight or sound of the word "German" now arouses within the minds and hearts of all persons possessed of any sense of decency or of morality makes it extremely difficult to approach translations from living or recent German authors in the spirit of cool criticism. The name of the individual responsible for the translation of this novel by Hermann Sudermann, here presented under the title of "The Silent Mill," is not given by the publishers. As for the novel itself, that would seem from internal evidence to have been written some time ago; it contains all the soft sentimentality that was the guise beneath which the German people so long succeeded in deceiving those of other, franker nations.

The three persons who play the principal parts in the tale are characters well adapted to the type of rustic story of which this is an example; there is the elder brother, Martin, silent, apparently sullen at times, generous, unsuspicious, overshadowed by the memory of a crime committed in his early youth; the younger brother, Johannes, is an Uhlan of the Guards, nine years the junior of the two, gay, high-spirited, good-looking, given to the singing of tender folk-songs—precisely like those other German soldiers who, as one of them wrote, "lived like gods in Belgium, boozing and raping our way across"—and very fond of mischief. Of course, the third of the trio is the girl Gertrude, called "Trude," but little over 17, gay and light-hearted as Johannes himself, fond of pranks and of laughter. The plot is the very familiar but always more or less effective and dramatic one of the man who falls in love with his brother's wife, and whose passion results in tragedy and death, while the details also are of an entirely familiar kind, and that reader must be indeed lacking in discernment who fails to see far in advance something at least of the part the drawbridge and the weir are destined to play in the dénouement.

Opening with a description of the now silent mill, crumbling and lichen-clad, its once clear stream choked with weeds, the book goes on to tell of the tragedy which brought about its ruin. Here was once the home of the brothers, Martin and Johannes Rockhammer, who loved each other more than brothers usually do, and had made a vow "that they would never part and that no third person should ever come between them in love or hate." Martin's devotion to Johannes sprang from his remorse for the terrible deed which his passionate temper had betrayed him into doing in his youth, and for which he had endeavored to atone by lavishing care and affection on the boy who was too young to remember that third brother who died an idiot. For many years they lived quietly and prosperously at the mill; then Johannes was called to military service and went to Berlin. Martin, left all by himself, found his loneliness unendurable, and married Gertrude Berling, the young and, of course, extremely beautiful daughter of a neighboring miller. Presently Johannes returned home and settled down to live at the mill. The young wife, though she had a certain affection for her husband and was grateful to him for his kindness to her poverty-stricken family, was oppressed and bored by his silence and his gravity, and turned for companionship to the more lively Johannes, while Martin even encouraged them to play about together. Of course the tragic result was unavoidable, and though Johannes did his best to stave it off by taking to drink and making a beast of himself in the thorough-going manner in which the Teuton usually accomplishes that especial feat, he failed to avert the catastrophe, and the book ends with two of its principal characters dead and the third a broken-hearted penitent on the verge of insanity.

Had it been published before the war, no doubt this novel would have been received as a sweet idyl ending in tragedy, a true picture of the simple, sentimental, soft-hearted German people. But now in our possession of a new and bitter knowledge, the tale rings false. Its romantic mill and destiny-haunted weir seem no more than so much clap-trap of painted lath and canvas; its songs are pervaded with memories of the "Hymn of Hate," its festivities call to mind only those rejoicings with which the German people hailed the sinking of the Lusitania.

THE SHRIEKING PIT

THE SHRIEKING PIT. By Arthur J. Rees. John Lane Company. $1.50 net.

IF you are a nervous person, prone to hearing mysterious noises during the night and to casting backward glances over your shoulder, don't read "The Shrieking Pit" just before going to bed. And if you have an important engagement to keep or a train to catch, don't begin it an hour or so before the time set for your departure. If you do, the chances are that your train will go without you and your reputation for punctuality be completely destroyed. Mr. Arthur J. Rees is said by his publishers to be a former detective of Scotland Yard, and if this tale of his is the result of the training there received, then we would advise all those who wish to write detective stories to betake themselves thither with the utmost rapidity.

For "The Shrieking Pit" is an absorbingly interesting story of mystery and murder, warranted to send chills creeping up and down the reader's spine. The scene is laid principally in and around an old inn on that section of the Norfolk coast where "the marshes stretched from the road to the sea, nearly a mile away." Over those marshes the wind moaned and howled, and the tiny village of Fiegne, where "The Golden Anchor," itself hundreds of years old, the only inn, was an ancient and ruined and almost abandoned place. Visitors rarely came there, but some of the pits near by were rich in fossil remains, and in order to study these an elderly man and noted archaeologist, Roger Glenthorpe, came to stay at "The Golden Anchor." One night while he was there another guest, a young man, arrived, and was given the adjoining room. Next morning Roger Glenthorpe's body was found in the pit he had been interested in excavating, and which was known in the neighborhood as "The Shrieking Pit." He had been stabbed, and the young man had disappeared. But though this young man was a stranger to the innkeeper of Fiegne, he had been staying for some time at another and far more luxurious establishment a few miles away. There his peculiar behavior had attracted the attention of Sir Henry Durwood, a nerve specialist, and also of a certain David Colwyn, a detective, half English and half American. Colwyn thought the young man suffering from shell shock, but Sir Henry pronounced him to be the victim of a particularly terrible form of epilepsy. The events which interest these two in the young man, registered at the hotel as James Ronald, open the book. But of what happens afterward, and how it comes about that Colwyn spends more than one exciting night in the old inn at Fiegne and finally succeeds in unraveling a mystery which bewilders the reader up to the very end, shall not be revealed here.

The tale is well told, and the admirable descriptions of the wild and dreary country surrounding the scene of the murder do much to make the story effective. It is, in short, a thriller of the first class.

TUMBLEFOLD

TUMBLEFOLD. By Joseph Whittaker. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co.

NOT a novel, nor indeed a story of any kind, "Tumblefold" gives in a very simple and sincere way a picture of child life as it is lived in the slums. The author calls it "a book of memories; a plain, unadorned story of a great friendship which was formed years ago among five schoolboys." Of these schoolboys the narrator himself was one. All of them lived in Tumblefold, often called merely "the Fold," a collection of old houses in the centre of what had once been a peaceful country town—Wolverhampton, bordering on the Black Country. Tumblefold was encircled by "ironworks, coalpits, and factories," pouring forth smoke and the odor of chemicals to poison the air the children breathed. But while four of the five friends had been born in "the Fold," and they all lived there, one, Freddy Stubbs, had come from a better place and had known brighter, happier days. It is this Freddy Stubbs who is the centre of the book; his arrival in "the Fold" opens the volume, and save for a sort of brief winding up it closes with his

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death. In between we read a story of dire poverty and what it does to children.

Dirt and disease, drunkenness and crime were rampant in Tumblefold. The children who lived there early learned what to do when the father came home drunk, and were often sent to "The Spotted Dog," the public house on the corner. Sanitation was unknown in Tumblefold; when the doctor suggested "the free use of soap and clean water, and the man with disinfectants came around" they were suspected of being unbelievers, if not actual atheists. Sickness was "the will of the Lord"—it was so much easier to put everything on "the will of the Lord" and to spend one's time talking to one's neighbors than it was to keep things clean. And as those who were ill seldom recovered, the children became familiar with death long before they knew what a tree was, or even a blade of grass. But in spite of it all, there were games and good times. For all its pathos, and its one or two outbursts of a heartfelt and irrepressible bitterness, the book is by no means entirely gloomy. These five boys of Tumblefold were genuine boys, and they had their plays and their pranks, though both were often permeated with a quite unconscious pathos. We read how they "Went A-Maying," how they built a great snow-house, and once actually constructed a panorama. Many of the chapters are little sketches practically complete in themselves, and several of these have to do with the grown people, like the one entitled "The Curse That Fell." A straightforward record of that grim sort of childhood which is born and reared in poverty "Tumblefold" is very real, and in its restraint and moderation far more impressive than invective can ever be.

THE GAMESTERS

THE GAMESTERS. By H. C. Bailey. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. $1.75.

A GAY tale of adventure is this—rather, a tale of many adventures, of the maddest kind. Eve de Ros and Adam her brother are young soldiers of fortune in eighteenth-century Germany, the petty States of the first half of the century, when Frederick the Great of Prussia was first a much-bullied Prince and then a young King. They are the children of a Dresden gambler, and when their father's devious methods become intolerable to them, they start out on the long road of destiny and open a gaming-house of their own. They look so much alike that they can all but exchange identities; Adam may wear Eve's clothes and the two appear to be sisters; Eve may swagger forth as a young gallant brother to Adam on an escapade to rescue a friend. They wander through many towns, and they have adventures everywhere. There is nothing under Heaven of which they are afraid, and there are few clever folk who can match their bright wits. Moreover, slim, quick-spoken, sophisticated Eve is very beautiful.

The story—it is a collection of stories, really, for not all the episodes are connected, save by hero and heroine—is told in the sprightliest way. There is much conversation, a wealth of repartee. There is much crossing of swords, no small amount of plotting, gay love-making hither and yon. The author does not err on the side of delicacy in telling his tales, but this was not a delicate age, and men and women were free-spoken in verbal attack and retort. Through it all, however, Eve remains as lovely as she is daring, Adam both honest and brave. It is a flashing story of intrigues, combats, conflicts of swords, of wits, of character.

Through it all, one sees Frederick the Great as a young man—undersized, peevish, sneering, beaten by his father and falling into fits of hysterical tears. Says one of the characters in the book, "These Hohenzollerns always yap at their sons."

IN ORCHARD GLEN

IN ORCHARD GLEN. By Marian Keith. New York: George H. Doran Company. $1.50 net.

ORCHARD GLEN was the name of the little town in the Province of Ontario, where Christina Lindsey lived with her widowed mother, her brothers, and two pretty sisters. Christina was not as pretty as either of the other two Lindsey girls, but when it came to self-sacrifice she had no rival. With vigor and a fairly dogged determination she sacrificed herself on every possible occasion, from the days when, as a small child, she filled Gavin Hume's empty berry pail from her own full one. After that incident, of course, Gavin adored her, and as he possessed all the virtues, she ultimately fell in love with him, but not until he had gone to the war and covered

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Cricket's heart, like an appendix, seems to be atrophied from lack of use. Mother is too busy, father doesn't know how, and governesses and teachers are more concerned about her manners. So Cricket becomes a child of rebellion, playing pranks that one enjoys heartily, but with the feeling that Cricket herself doesn't. In time Cricket discovers her own heart. She doesn't know how big it is, until the biggest man in the world comes and fills it. *Net, $1.50*

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The New York Times
Review of Books

Literary Section
of
The New York Times

NEW YORK, MAY 18, 1919.

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WHERE AMERICA LEADS

THE acknowledged supremacy in short-story writing won and maintained by American men of letters during the last half century and more is agreeably emphasized in a volume of "Selected English Short Stories" that has just been published by the Oxford University Press, with four other volumes, in their popular series of "World's Classics." This short-story anthology is limited to the nineteenth century, and contains in all thirty titles. Of this number twelve short stories are by American writers, while the rest have either Scotch or English origin. The Americans have thus a representation in the collection of more than a third, and, while this does not give them an actual numerical preponderance over their rivals, the fact that the anthology is compiled by Englishmen, working primarily for English readers and under an imprint so formidably British as the Oxford University Press, heightens the force of the book's implied tribute to American literary genius in this particular field. The editor of the volume, Dr. HUGH WALKER, who writes a scholarly introduction, points out that the American element is remarkably conspicuous in the volume, and, after furnishing the reader with some speculative reasons for the national aptitude in this particular branch of literature, concludes that "it must suffice to note the fact that there is no other form of literature in which America is so eminent as in the writing of short stories, and to leave it unexplained."

THE theory, advanced by critics prior to this Oxford University anthology, that America excels in the short story because this is too busy a country for the long story or novel, does not find favor with Dr. WALKER, who remarks, "We might imagine that the hurry of American life had something to do with it," and then asks, "Is not the short story the literary form we should expect to find flourishing in a country where there is hardly time to eat meals?" Unfortunately for this theory, however, based as it is on a supposititious fact, the whole tone of the American stories reprinted in the collection is suggestive of anything but the traditional hurry of American life. These stories, indeed, as Dr. WALKER declares, "seem to emanate from and to be written for Sleepy Hollow." More, almost, than any of their English neighbors in the collection they are characterized by a certain literary leisureliness, a quiet perfection of finish that one is apt to look for among writers who, if they are poor in everything else, at least have an abundance of time to spend in shaping and refining their work. The list of American titles is headed by WASHINGTON IRVING'S "Rip Van Winkle." Then there are four stories by NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE, "The Snow Image," "The Threefold Destiny," "Dr. Heidegger's Experiment," "Howe's Masquerade"; three by EDGAR ALLAN POE, "The Fall of the House of Usher," "The Pit and the Pendulum," "Eleanora," and four by FRANCIS BRET HARTE, "Miggles," "Tennessee's Partner," "The Iliad of Sandy Bar," "M'liss."

THE omission of O. HENRY from Dr. WALKER'S list will strike many of us as a peculiarly odd and regrettable feature. O. HENRY'S mastery of the short story, in spite of certain recent cavalings on the subject, is generally regarded as one of the interesting and undeniably forward steps in the development of American literature. But O. HENRY was born in 1867; his first book, "Cabbages and Kings," appeared in 1905. His brilliant career as a short-story writer belongs, therefore, to the twentieth century—a fact that disqualifies him for this Oxford University anthology with its specific limitation to writers of the nineteenth century. O. HENRY'S stories undoubtedly have more in them of the spirit of hurry that supposedly characterizes this country in its literary and artistic activities as well as in its business than the other American stories selected for this anthology. As O. HENRY'S work is perforce left out of the collection Dr. WALKER argues without his example before him as to the why and wherefore of American supremacy in the short story, and incidentally gives a brief though interesting analysis of this country's tendencies and achievements in literature:

> The author of "Twice-Told Tales" had time to brood and meditate, and he expected his readers to find time too. They are not the sort of literature to be taken on the street car and read to the "scoosh" of the electric wire. HAWTHORNE, it is true, belongs to a time when English influence was more potent in American literature than it is now. But even BRET HARTE'S tales, written in the midst of the rush and tumult of the Californian gold fever, are fanciful and introspective rather than hurried and adventurous. The curtain rises that we may see Tennessee's Partner conduct a funeral, and his heart is in the coffin there with Tennessee. Life has come to a stop with Miggles, and the whole point of the story is to illustrate her fidelity to the paralytic Jim. The outcasts of Poker Flat are shown at the moment when the problem before them is just how to die—and how to die, not in action, not with the tense strain of every muscle, but simply in the mood of acquiescence in inevitable fate. To come down to a still later date, the exquisite New England pictures of Miss WILKINS are pictures of quietude, and sometimes of stagnation. There are undoubtedly correlations between literature and life, but they are of a subtle kind. The suggested correlation between a bustling life and a literature of hurry and adventure is too obvious. And it is not true, the facts contradict it. There is more ground for the theory that the cause is to be found in the freedom which American publishers have enjoyed and taken to print the works of English authors without paying for them. They were not likely to pay for native talent when the works of the English romancers from SCOTT downward were theirs already. In the case of the novel this was a weighty consideration; in the case of the short story it was much less important. And other considerations had to be taken into account. Local color could only be supplied by men of the locality. New England had a life and traditions of its own; the Southern States had their negroes; only a Californian could thoroughly understand California. But though we may believe that there is an element of truth in this theory, it would be rash to take it as a full explanation of the fact. If it were, the case of poetry ought to correspond with that of prose. We should expect England to produce the long epics and the ambitious tragedies, but both countries to be equally prolific of lyrics and occasional verse. But it is not so. While the American story tellers are the equals of any, not only SHELLEY and KEATS and COLERIDGE, but in later days TENNYSON and BROWNING and SWINBURNE stand as supreme in the lyric as they do in their longer works.

Another literary problem suggested by this anthology is the fact that the palm for excellence—as this is to be found in intrinsic interest and faultless construction—goes to Sir WALTER SCOTT'S "Wandering Willie's Tale." That a man whose gifts and achievements are so peculiarly with the novel, and whose literary weakness is rather in the line of a too great elaboration that degenerates frequently into sheer verbosity, should excel to such a degree in the short story is hard to explain. But the proof is there in this splendid little tale—and few will regret the opportunity to add another laurel to the wreath of the author of "Waverley."

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SWINBURNE'S FRIENDSHIPS AND HATREDS

(Continued from Page 281)

which most readers can admire without being betrayed into enthusiasm, the anonymous "Arden of Feversham" and Tourneur's "Revenger's Tragedy."

The Elizabethan plays have cast their spell over many a collector, student, critic, and poet in the years since Theobald and Malone began to study the early editions and since Lamb went into raptures over their treasures of poetry. Age does not wither their infinite variety, for some critic is ever finding new significance or beauty in some line spouted by one of the Lord Chamberlain's players to the crowded pit of three centuries ago. The paper pamphlets in which they were hawked about for sixpence now command hundreds, or even thousands, of pounds. Swinburne, collector and lover of old books as he was, might have found hyperboles inadequate to describe the prices at which several unique quartos were recently sold in war-stricken London. At all events, in the long procession of those who have loved Shakespeare and all his fellow-dramatists, he will be remembered as one who marched most proudly and sang his paean of praise most heartily.

There is, of course, much in the Letters in regard to Swinburne's own poems, but it is not of marked importance. We learn that he is writing "Atalanta," that he is indignant because his publishers have suppressed the "Poems and Ballads," that he is trying to arrange for American rights for "Songs Before Sunrise," that he is in difficulty with his publishers, that he does not like some of the reviews of "Erechtheus," that he thinks an editor should pay considerably more for a long than for a short poem, that he is proud of his invention of the rhyming sestina. But these and similar records are not different from those which any writer would make; the difference lies not in the notes but in the poems which they mention.

Like his idol Lander, Swinburne was distinguished by a very gracious courtesy and also by a very abusive ill-temper. In general, the letters reflect a courtesy that is not only formally correct but exceedingly painstaking and generous. There are instances, however, in which he expresses his aversion or contempt in vigorous rhetoric. Of his rages, of those orgies of vituperation to which he was sometimes provoked, the letters present only one or two examples, and these might better have been omitted. It would probably have been impossible to keep out all trace of that furious quarrel between Dr. Furnival and the poet which shook the Shakespeare Society to its foundations and resulted in a long warfare of pamphlets. The row began, as have so many bitter altercations, over some matters of Shakespearean scholarship and ended with each combatant exhausting his mastery of the English vocabulary in calling the other names. But, whatever was to be done with some reverberations of this unedifying debate which echo in the letters, there was no excuse for printing a letter written to Mr. Gosse himself in which Swinburne replied to certain animadversions on the immorality of his poetry made by Cardinal Newman. The poet's anger led him to an attack upon the Catholic Church and some of its saints which is extravagant beyond absurdity and which ought to have been deemed unprintable.

Swinburne himself wrote very sensibly on this matter of private correspondence, at a time when he was anxious to recover certain early letters from the hands of a publisher with whom he had quarreled. His editors might have taken the views here expressed more to heart:

> Neither Hotten, nor, for that matter, any man alive, has in his possession anything from my hand for which I need feel shame or serious regret or apprehension, even should it be exposed to public view; but without any such cause for fear or shame, we may all agree that we shrink, and that reasonably, from the notion that all private papers, thrown off in moments of chaff or Rabelaisian exchange of burlesque correspondence between friends who understand the fun, and have the watchword, as it were, under which a jest passes and circulates in the right quarter, should ever be liable to the inspection of common or unfriendly eyes.

It is pleasanter to turn from the poet's hatreds to his affections. The letters cannot add to the praise which his poems have sung to liberty, to the sea, and to children, but they bear constant witness to the sincerity of the poet's passionate love for all three. There are several charming passages in the brief autobiographical sketch which he wrote for Edmund Clarence Stedman in 1875. In one he tells of his first acquaintance with the ocean:

> I have heard that Goethe, Victor Hugo, and myself were all born in the same condition—all but dead, and cer-

(Continued on Page 290)

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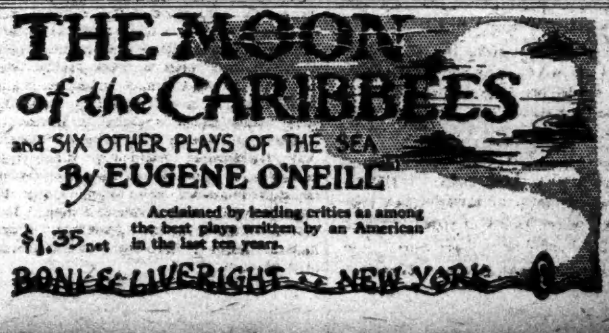

BOOKS IN BRIEF REVIEW

THE ROAD TO A HEALTHY OLD AGE. By T. Bodley Scott, M. R. C. S., Eng., L. R. C. P., Ed. New York: Henry Holt & Co. $1.35.

WHAT WE EAT AND WHAT HAPPENS TO IT: The Results of the First Direct Method Ever Devised to Follow the Actual Digestion of Food in the Human Stomach. By Philip B. Hawk, Ph. D., Professor of Physiological Chemistry of the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. New York: Harper & Brothers. $1.35.

OLD age is inevitable and death is inevitable, but "that miserable fiasco we call senility," says Dr. Scott, is not a law of nature. This is the foundation fact upon which his interesting little book is based. It is a study of the chief causes of premature decay in man's health and vitality, and the ways to prevent, and even to correct, that process. In general, he says:

> The average duration of life and working years is steadily increasing, and their limits and possibilities are not yet in sight. The normal of today should go on steadily growing into the subnormal of tomorrow. * * * This great result is not going to be attained by any royal or easy road, by sour milk or by any other food fads, but by an all-around application of scientific and logical thought; by improved sanitation, and by a wise and temperate reform of all that belongs to our moral and physical lives.

In particular regard to senility and its causes, he goes on:

> Senility, in its most distressing aspects, is not the result of wearing out or of overwork. Men and women who work till they drop rarely get gradual decay; they die suddenly, or after a few days' illness. Senility, scientificially speaking, means the cessation of renewal more than the destruction of existing tissues. Where lies the centre of vital power and what it is we cannot definitely say, but it is almost certain that the chief agents of that power are our ductless glands, and it is their failure that spells senility.

At about a certain age, he adds, "the weather changes," and we must keep trimming our sails or making wearisome tacks to windward. Of the general causes of this threatening breakdown, he continues:

> The first cause, but not the most frequent one, is, I think, hereditary gout and an hereditary tendency to Bright's disease, if they can be separated, but both these tendencies can be kept well in check by a wise régime. The second cause, which comes into action far more frequently, is external, and is to a large extent preventable or removable. It is the speed, the intensity, and high pressure of modern life, and this not only in business and professional men, but in the men and women of society.

Dr. Scott estimates that 50 per cent. of the deaths of people over sixty years of age are due to diseases of the heart and blood vessels, to "Bright's disease, or to the non-tubercular chronic chest disenses that are so often mixed up with them." He therefore invites his readers to a study of hardening of the arteries and goes into helpful detail on the prevention and treatment of arteriosclérosis—to give it its scientific name; he also takes up the matter of asthma and chronic bronchitis, and makes in addition an interesting study of the use of the extracts from some of the ductless glands in the treatment of arteriosclerosis, especially in late and advanced cases.

Much of Dr. Scott's book is addressed directly to members of the medical profession and is technical in its nature. But it is not too technical for the "lay public" to read and be interested in—as, for instance, when he says that "the real hope of successful therapeutics lies in the organic animal remedies." On the other hand, in his suggestions as to diet, ways of living, changes in both with advancing years, he is most practical and helpful for the lay reader. And his general study of high blood pressure, the kind of life that makes man liable to "premature decay" from this cause, and the ways to deal with the situation, is most illuminating.

In recording the results of the unique investigations made at the Jefferson Medical College, Dr. Hawk sets down conclusions in crisp and readable form. "What We Eat" is distinctly a book for the general public. Dr. Hawk presents no description of the work that he did, no scientific discussion. He answers, on the basis of direct experiment, a number of questions about the digestion of food.

Some of these are what may be called revolutionary. For instance, the very first question in the book is "Should we drink water with our meals?" And the answer is to the effect that such a practice, so long thought unwise, is absolutely harmless, that the taking of water with meals has no effect on digestion; Dr. Hawk suggests that the bulk of our water drinking should accompany our meals, and that we should drink at least two glasses at each mealtime.

The experiments were made upon students at the Jefferson Medical College. Here are some further findings:

> Of the four common forms of bread—white bread, graham bread, whole wheat, bran bread—the pure white variety is the only one which is defective as a food.
>
> It is not bad for one to eat hot bread. It has become pretty well established in the scientific and lay mind that fresh bread is "notoriously indigestible." * * * Our tests, however, failed to establish this "notorious digestibility." We did note, however, that the hot bread generally left the stomach somewhat more slowly than the bread which was two days old. * * * Hot bread has a very pleasing flavor, and if the bread be properly chewed there is no reason why it should not be eaten.
>
> The often maligned "hot cake" and waffle, if properly prepared, are good foods and as easily digested as the muffin. The reason our stomachs find trouble in handling these foods is probably because we eat too large a quantity at one time, or use an excessive amount of molasses or sugar with them.
>
> Veal is a perfectly satisfactory food, and in our experience acts much the same in the stomach as do beef and lamb. Chicken, either stewed, roasted, or fried, on the average remained in the stomach fully as long as beef, lamb, or veal.

Throughout, "What We Eat and What Happens to It" is a practical handbook. It is chiefly concerned with digestion, and mentions food values only casually.

MEXICO

MEXICO UNDER CARRANZA. A Lawyer's Indictment of the Crowning Infamy of Four Hundred Years of Misrule. By Thomas Edward Gibbon. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co. $1.50.

MR. GIBBON'S conviction about Mexico can be summed up briefly: That the Latin-Mexican minority ruling class in Mexico is by inheritance, temperament, character, and training unfit to rule; that the Indian and mixed Indian blood of the majority of the population, mainly poor and ignorant underlings, possess qualities of character that would make it much better fit for Governmental duties than are its present superiors; that the United States ought to go into Mexico in force, seize the Government and administer it until the peons can be educated and developed to the point where they can assume control and by virtue of their numbers keep the Latin-Mexican forever out of office. "What Mexico needs," he says, "and what I believe she must have, is the intervention in her affairs of some saving powed such as England has afforded to Egypt and our own nation has afforded to the Philippines and to Cuba in a degree under the authority of the Platt amendment."

Again and again throughout the book, and especially in the last chapter, Mr. Gibbon makes it clear that he does not believe the descendants of the Spanish conquerors, who are now the Latin-Mexican ruling class and form about 20 per cent. of the population, can be trusted to rule Mexico with honesty and justice and in the democratic spirit. They must be ousted from the position of ruling class and thrust completely down and out, he is entirely sure, before Mexico can enjoy peace, prosperity, and a democratic Government. And what Government other than the United States could undertake that job or would be allowed by this country to undertake it? And, of course, if our people should hesitate over such interference in a neighbor's affairs the high and sacred duty of avenging the outrages to American citizens who have met death or destruction of property at the hands of Mexican bandits would furnish a sufficient excuse.

Such is Mr. Gibbon's conviction, and all the gathering and presentation of evidence and all the argument of his book are for the purpose of winning readers to his belief.

S. O. S.

S. O. S.: AMERICA'S MIRACLE IN FRANCE. By Isaac F. Marcosson. Illustrated. New York: John Lane Company.

WE have all read much and heard much about the deeds of America's fighting men in France, and Americans are all proud of the splendid record and the big achievements of the A. E. F. on the field of battle. But the A. E. F. has made another record in France, a record of construction instead of destruction, a record of achievement so marvelous that it takes one's breath by its bigness and importance and the speed with which it was done. Most of that work, which had to be done before the lines of fighting men could be sent to the front and maintained there, was hidden behind a thick veil of military secrecy until after the armistice was signed. Lieutenant Coningsby Dawson's little book, "Out to Win," published nearly a year ago, gave a few brief glimpses of the mighty works that had grown like magic along the shores and in the interior of France. Last Winter Major Frederick Palmer's "America in France" gave more and somewhat

(Continued on Following Page)

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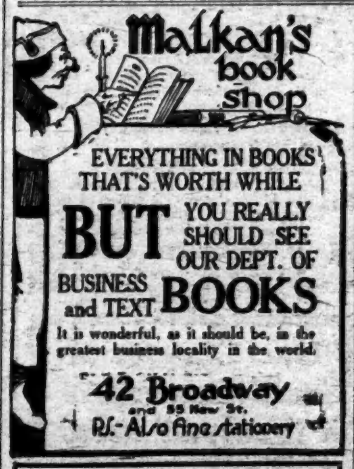

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BOOKS IN BRIEF REVIEW

(Continued from Preceding Page)

longer glimpses. And now and then a returning traveler or correspondent has spoken marveling words about it. But Mr. Marcosson's book is the first to give a comprehensive idea of the scope and sheer, tremendous effort of the achievement. And even he does not tell all that one would like to know about it, does not give, indeed, much more than a mere intimation of the bigness and variety and difficulty of the works on their concrete side.

Mr. Marcosson does give, however, a very complete and comprehensive account of the organization that has made all of these things possible. He explains carefully and in a very readable way the methods and results of the organization and the administration of all the many phases of the Service of Supplies—the S. O. S., as it is known in the army—from General Pershing down to Sergeants in charge of working gangs, and from the base ports where the supplies are received to the ultimate consumers at the front. And in the course of this story he stops every now and then to tell about the size and uses of some mammoth warehouse or factory or refrigerating plant and the speed with which it was built, or to describe in rapid outline the way in which a sleepy little port was enlarged and modernized and fitted to receive a stream of men and supplies. One would be glad to have much more of this description of concrete things that were done, in all their bewildering bigness and variety. But the greater part of Mr. Marcosson's book appears to have been written before the signing of the armistice, and so perhaps the military authorities were not yet willing for the veil to be wholly withdrawn. Mr. Marcosson writes out of full and authoritative knowledge, for before he began the work he had lived and traveled with the S. O. S. from base port to trench and had studied all its methods and their results. He has written also about "The Business of War" in a previous book, in which he told how other nations have organized and systematized the carrying on of war, for the observation of which their military authorities had given him ample opportunity. And after studying and comparing them all, he says that "It is no depreciation of any of the army organizations that I have described to say that the American business of war as expressed in the Service of Supply is the most remarkable performance I have seen yet."

GENERAL PERSHING

THE STORY OF GENERAL PERSHING. By Everett T. Tomlinson. New York: D. Appleton & Co. $1.50.

GENERAL JOHN JOSEPH PERSHING was born in Laclede, Mo., on Sept. 13, 1860. From the letters and reminiscences of contemporaries, his biographer, Mr. Tomlinson, pieces together the story of the General's boyhood and early youth. He was distinguished for his quiet persistence, his conscientiousness, his courage. As a boy the future General worked long hours on a farm, and, when he was 17, taught in a negro school. "Through all these various experiences," we are told, "he was saving every penny possible, with the thought in view of the education he was determined to obtain." At the Kirksville, Mo., Normal School he worked hard at mathematics, but at no time was his school career brilliant. At last he took the examinations for West Point, was successful among eighteen competitors, and, in July, 1882, he became a plebe in the famous Military Academy.

In a delightful letter sent by General Pershing from the Philippines to the class of 1886, of which he is President, is contained a brief and humorous outline of his career in West Point. There is a spirit of the "old grad" looking back longingly to happy undergraduate days pervading the letter which may be a bit unexpected to those familiar only with the rather stern General Pershing of the photographs:

> It is unfortunate indeed for me that higher authority has concluded that I should not leave my post at this time. This is a great disappointment to me. There is nothing that could equal the pleasure of meeting once more with old '86—companions of my youth, the friendship for whom is above all others the dearest and most lasting. To be again for a few hours as in the olden days at West Point with those who stood shoulder to shoulder with me and I with them through over four years would be worth a great sacrifice. The thought makes me long for cadet days again. I would gladly go back into the corps, (although of course it has gone entirely to the dogs since we were cadets,) and gladly (in spite of this) go through the whole course from beginning to end to be with you all as we were then. Life meant so much to us—probably more than it ever has since—when the soul was filled to the utmost with ambition and the world was full of promise.

After his graduation General Pershing was assigned to the 6th Cavalry in the

(Continued on Following Page)

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BOOKS IN BRIEF REVIEW

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Southwest and engaged in hunting marauding Indian chiefs. In 1887 he was specially complimented by General Miles for "marching his troops with a pack train of 140 mules in forty-six hours and bringing in every animal in good condition." After five years of this kind of service he was appointed, in September, 1891, as Professor of Military Science and Tactics at the University of Nebraska. It is interesting to recall that, while teaching here, the young Lieutenant, discouraged by the slowness of promotion, and convinced that there would not be a "gun fired in the world for 100 years," took the law course and gained a degree. But the Spanish war broke out, and he was commended for "conducting himself in a most gallant and efficient manner." At his own request he was sent to the Philippine Islands as Adjutant General of the District of Mindanao and Jolo. His work in subjecting the Moros gained him the recognition of President Roosevelt, who "jumped" him 862 orders, to the rank of Brigadier General. The new General's achievements up to that time are summed up by the biographer:

> He had labored in somewhat obscure fields. He had assisted in subduing insurrections, had supervised many local improvements in the territory within which he was working. He had assisted in winning victories and had warded off attacks by hostile Moros. There had, however, been nothing spectacular in his work. His reliability, good sense, bravery, and administrative ability, however, were now better known and he was in every way prepared for the more important problems which confronted him.

What those problems were are of too recent history to need rehearsal here. In March, 1915, General Pershing was sent as the head of a punitive expedition against Villa. "Although the punitive expedition failed in its main purpose—the capture of Villa—the opinion in America was unanimous that the leadership had been superb." And then came the command to go to France as the head of the American Expeditionary Force. There are full descriptions of the reception accorded General Pershing in England and France and the dignity and poise with which, as the head of the American Army and the representative of this country, General Pershing met them. The reason behind the deep affection in which General Pershing is held by his men is explained by the following incident. A young enlisted Pole, John Kuloski, had executed a deed of daring on the battlefield. Immediately he heard of it General Pershing sent Kuloski the following telegram from headquarters:

> I have just heard of your splendid conduct on June 6, when you alone charged a gun, captured it and its crew, together with an officer. I have awarded you the Distinguished Service Cross. I congratulate you. PERSHING.

Mr. Tomlinson's biography will introduce to many who do not know his career the man who headed the American Army in the war of 1914.

VERSAILLES

THE STORY OF VERSAILLES. By Francis Loring Payne. Illustrated. New York: Moffat, Yard & Co. $1.50.

Fascinating perhaps beyond any other monument to human power and glory, the creation of Louis XIV. attracts the footsteps and the meditations of travelers innumerable from all the ends of the earth, and no account of its glittering, mutable history ever lacks readers. Many are the books that have been written about it, and they will probably be succeeded by many more for years to come. Just now the story of the mutations through which Versailles has passed becomes of keener interest than ever because in its stately Hall of Mirrors, which has reflected so many momentous scenes, will presently take place one of the most momentous in all the history of civilization, when for the first time the leading nations of the world will undertake to carry on their mutual affairs in harmony and with regard for the welfare of the world rather than for their own glory.

The occasion is ample excuse for new volumes about Versailles, and this modest "Story" by Mr. Payne, which recounts the general outlines and the chief events of its history with simplicity and directness, will meet the needs of many busy readers who would not have time for a more comprehensive account. It lacks distinction of style and the author is sometimes unnecessarily and annoyingly exclamatory. He would also have added much to the interest of his narrative by making occasional contrast of the magnificence and splendor of apartments and fêtes with the filth and discomfort that were part of the life of the courtiers of Louis XIV. Nevertheless, his account of the origin of Versailles, of the Grand Monarch's pleasure in its creation, of its evolution from dreary, almost barren farm lands into one of the most gorgeous and famous of palaces and playgrounds, of its long history and its many varied fortunes, and of its present estate is sufficiently comprehensive and colorful, with extracts from contemporary writers at different times in its history, to be full of interest and particularly timely for the readers of today.

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LATEST FICTION

(Continued from Page 283)

himself with glory. In fact, she was for a time engaged to a man who proved a thorough-going slacker.

Apart from Christina's numerous self-sacrifices, most of the extremely long story has to do with life in the little Canadian town or village. There are a great many characters, none of them especially interesting, though that admirable executive, Mrs. Johnnie Dunn, usually known as "The Woman," which was her husband's nickname for her, is entertaining at times. The account of the recruiting in the little Canadian towns, and the description of how the war ended the feud between the rival Presbyterian and Methodist churches, are the best things in the novel.

LOVE TIME IN PICARDY

LOVE TIME IN PICARDY. By William Addison Lathrop. New York: Britton Publishing Company. $1.50.

In the sad little story of one household in one Picardy village William Addison Lathrop bids us consider the problem of the French and Belgian women who have been the victims of German brutality. As he says in his foreword, the problem of these "honorably wounded" women and girls and their children is far too grave and too baffling to be solved in a day or a year; perhaps it can never be solved at all. But it is for us to remember that the sufferings of devastated France and Belgium are not over because the war has come to an end.

"Love Time in Picardy" presents the household of Père Gerome, an old man, fond of books and music, loved and respected everywhere in the community. His "household," indeed, consists only of the old man and his loved and lovable granddaughter, Yvonne, who is 18 and charming, and who has just been "asked" by a fine and likable boy who has been her friend and comrade all her life. To be sure, Anatole's father, a wealthy man, would have sought a more richly dowered bride for his son. But Yvonne and Anatole loved each other, and the obstacle in the way of their marriage is after all a slight thing that will no doubt be quickly overcome. There is much happiness in the little Picardy cottage; and this is July, 1914.

The story is not one of fighting, though Anatole is in the army, nor of prison camps, though Père Gerome is carried away to Germany. The story is of what happened in the Picardy village when the Germans came. It is a tragic story of things that would seem incredible if we did not know them to be literally true. For Yvonne and her grandfather there is some final peace at the end, some hope of happiness once more, when the Germans have been driven back at last. But the story is, after all, not of one girl alone, but of one girl as the type of many.

MAID AND WIFE

MAID AND WIFE. By Carolyn Beecher. New York: Britton Publishing Company. $1.50.

This novel is set forth as having some connection with realism. As a matter of fact, it is a crudely written but interesting little story whose sole claim to attention is in its readableness as a romance. The heroine, who tells her tale in the first person, is the only daughter of a superlatively rich family in Chicago, (not "a small town," as the publisher's announcement states!) and the first few pages present a record of her parties, her suitors, her luxuries in the year of her "coming out." With the sudden death of her father, it is discovered that the family is penniless, and the young heroine sets forth to New York to make her living. She leaves her mother and young brother—like "Pilgrim's Progress," this book "don't say why"; neither does it say how or where—and she makes no effort to get in touch with any relatives or friends who might help her. Instead, utterly untrained, helpless, very pretty, quite alone, and practically destitute, she goes to New York, and after several vain attempts to get work she succeeds in finding employment as a salesgirl at the notion counter of a big department store. Here she is annoyed by the attentions of the floor walker, and when she "repulses" his unwelcome advances he has her dismissed without references, accused of having pilfered from the store's notion stock.

That is the sort of story it is. Eventually Sheila both "succeeds" and marries. But she finds that domesticity is too dull for one who has tasted a business career, and within a year and a half she is back in New York with "something to do." Of course she finally decides that it is her husband and her home that she wants after all.

"Maid and Wife" is not so silly as its title. In fact, it is an entertaining little story, once one gives up expectations of reality.

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The book is written in such fine literary style that one reads it without giving a conscious thought to the question of style, the entire attention being concentrated upon the faithful simplicity of the delineation of character. I can not recall having read a book in years, which is so utterly satisfying from every point of view, and I imagine the dénouement is that at which all of us arrive after Fate has done her worst. I wish that the book might have a very wide circulation, since the idea that it embodies of helping God to materialize through each human being following a God-given impulse in a last extremity is the only way in which a happy millennium can come to earth.

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SWINBURNE'S FRIENDSHIPS AND HATREDS

(Continued from Page 285)

tainly not expected to live an hour. Yet I grew up a healthy boy enough and fond of the open air, though slightly built, and have never had a serious touch of illness in my life. As for the sea, its salt *must* have been in my blood before I was born. I can remember no earlier enjoyment than being held up naked in my father's arms and brandished between his hands, then shot like a stone from a sling through the air, shouting and laughing with delight, head foremost, into the coming wave—which could only have been the pleasure of a very little fellow. I remember being afraid of other things, but never of the sea.

In another he tells of his affection for the very old and the very young:

> All my friends know and joke about my life-long fondness (I am happy to say I have always found it naturally reciprocated) for very little children and very old persons. Of the latter I had known already two sublime examples in my grandfather and Mr. Landor, and last summer I made and enjoyed the acquaintance of Mr. Trelawny (the friend of Shelley, of Byron, and of Greece); a triad of Titans, of whom one was a giant of genius. The present piratical old hero calls me the last of the poets, who he thought all died with Byron. To hear him speak of Shelley is most beautiful and touching; at that name his voice (usually that of an old sea king, as he is) *changes* and softens unconsciously. "There," he said to me, "was the very best of men, and he was treated as the very worst." He professes fierce general misanthropy, but is as ardent a republican (and atheist) as Shelley was at 20; a magnificent old Viking to look at. Of the three Landor must have been less handsome and noble-looking in youth than in age; my grandfather and Trelawny probably even more.

There is something very winning in the simplicity of the nature revealed in this autobiographical account, and indeed throughout the letters. It was a nature that suffered from faults and disease, but it was passionately loyal to what it worshipped. And it worshipped poetry and political liberty, the waves of the sea and the play of little children, Shakespeare and some of the noblest and most enduring of the men of his own time. Among the few letters written during the last years of the poet's life is one to Lady Ritchie, daughter of Thackeray, congratulating her on being a grandmother. It comes just after a courteous note to Lord Curzon declining an honorary degree from Oxford, and it is a pleasant bit with which to close a volume or a life:

> I do congratulate you cordially on being a grandmother. To have a baby at hand or within reach is to belong to "the kingdom of heaven" yourself. I met this morning on my daily walk a fair friend not yet well stricken in months, who beamed and chuckled inarticulately (being still by necessity an inarticulate poet) at sight of me from the depth of her pushwainling. (I hope you never use the barbaric word perambulator?) Don't you like the late Rev. W. Barnes much better as a lexicographer (though I fear Miss Pinkerton might have demurred to his claims on that score) than as a poet? The happy term "pushwainling" for a baby's coach of state is what makes him immortal in my eyes.

BOOKS FOR ARMY AND NAVY.

BEGINNING tomorrow, the American Library Association will carry on an emergency campaign for the ten days from May 19 to 29 for more books sorely needed by our soldiers and sailors—needed now, the army officers and the war librarians say, more than they were before the Armistice was signed. Last year the A. L. A. collected, or bought, and distributed to the army and navy five million volumes. But a book in war service lasts only one-seventh as long as one issued from a public library, and frequently is no longer fit for use after it has been issued four times. Many were lost completely as men were transferred or went into action, and many were returned caked with mud or riddled by shellfire. The appetite of the men for reading has grown as it has been fed, and many thousands are eagerly reading now who never read before. Books are needed on the transports that are bringing home the men. They are needed most of all in the hospitals, where, even in the military hospitals in the United States, the supply has never been sufficient.

All manner of good fiction is desired, with special emphasis upon recent novels of the best quality. All the standard authors hold their popularity. Poetry is much appreciated, especially anthologies. The demand for up-to-date technical and professional works of every imaginable sort is enormous. And any kind of a good book which a man would like to read at home will interest him at his post in Germany, or France, or Russia, waiting in camp for orders home, on a transport, in a hospital, or in the military or naval stations or upon the warships of the permanent United States service.

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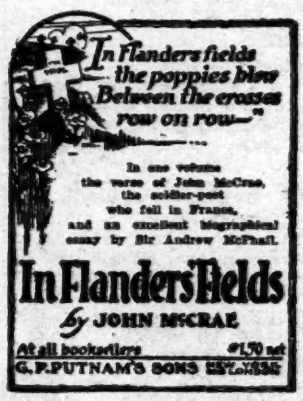

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WITH AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS

WALT WHITMAN'S centenary falls on May 31 and celebrations of the event are being held all through this month by various organizations. The Brooklyn Academy of Arts and Sciences held its first celebration on May 9, and under its auspices there will be a second celebration on May 31, when a pilgrimage will be made, after a talk by Dr. Richard Burton, to the poet's birthplace at West Hills, L. I., the little schoolhouse in which he taught and the famous oak which gave him his favorite retreat. Other celebrations have been or will be held this month by Vassar College, the Poetry Society of America, the Whitman Fellowship and several western universities. The Brooklyn Daily Eagle, of which Whitman was for a time the editor, will publish a special Whitman number on the centenary day, May 31; the May issue of Poetry is a Whitman number, and several other magazines are recognizing the event in their May numbers. At the celebration by the Brooklyn Institute on May 9 John Burroughs gave an analysis of the man and the poet based upon almost thirty years of intimate friendship; Dr. Samuel Crothers in his address emphasized the deeply religious character of Whitman's work and said that he revived the spirit of the old Hebrew prophets; Edwin Markham showed that he was the embodiment and poet spokesman of American democracy; Louis Untermeyer described him as the great liberator of American literature from old-world aristocratic shackles of tradition; Thomas B. Harned, from personal knowledge as intimate friend and literary executor, refuted the slanders which pursued Whitman; William Lyon Phelps explained why it had taken Whitman so long to gain the recognition his genius merited; Arthur M. Howe, editor of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, spoke on Whitman as an editor.

Houghton Mifflin Company have ready for immediate publication Senator Lodge's "Theodore Roosevelt," the address which he delivered before the Senate on the occasion of the ex-President's death; Dr. Richard Cabot's "Social Work: Essays on the Meeting Ground of Doctor and Social Worker"; Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell's "Labrador Days"; Keith Preston's "Types of Pan"; Lieutenant Robert H. Reece's "Night Bombing with the Bedouins," and Allen Chamberlain's "Vacation Tramps in New England Highlands."

The H. W. Wilson Company will bring out within a week or two a handbook on "Employment Management" by Daniel Bloomfield who, like his brother, Meyer Bloomfield, is an expert in this line of work. The literature upon this subject is all very recent and is scattered through books, pamphlets, periodicals, and reports published during the last ten years, but Mr. Bloomfield has endeavored to collect all the important articles into this one volume, which will have an introduction by Meyer Bloomfield. A useful feature will be an appendix containing a large number of forms that have been used successfully by important employment departments.

William Roscoe Thayer, author of "The Life and Letters of John Hay" and "The Life and Times of Cavour," has just been elected a foreign member of the Academy of the Lincei, Rome, said to be the oldest learned body in Europe. Mr. Thayer's new book, "Democracy: Discipline: Peace," has just been published by the Houghton Mifflin Company.

John Stuart Thompson, author of "China Revolutionized" and "The Chinese," has just been made Chairman and associate editor of "Gateway," the magazine, one of whose aims is the combating of socialism, I. W. W.ism, and Bolshevism. It is published in Detroit, but Mr. Thompson will cover the eastern field and his headquarters will be in Jersey City.

Nicholas L. Brown will bring out this month a volume of letters written from France by the late Lieutenant James R. Crowe, collected and edited by W. B. Chase. It will be called "Pat Crowe, Aviator," and the letters composing it are said to be in a key wholly different from that of most war books.

A half dozen novels are announced for early publication by Alfred A. Knopf, among them being the novelty of a Japanese work said to be the first modern novel translated from the Japanese into English. "An Adopted Husband" will be its title and it is translated from the Japanese of Futabatei. Others of the half dozen will be "Wolves," a novel of American big business, by Alden W. Welch; "Our Wonderful Selves," a story of artist life in Paris and stage life in England, By Roland Pertwee; "The Pale Horse," a tale of the Russian revolution, by Boris Savinkov, better known as Ropshin; "The Tunnel," by Dorothy Richardson, and "The Shadow of Mairsward," a mystery story by the author of "The White Rook."

The anonymous novel of wartime life in London, "Patricia Brent, Spinster," the identity of whose authorship has never been revealed, has been translated into Swedish and Danish-Norwegian and is undergoing translation for early publication in Holland and France, and is also being filmed for moving-picture presentation.

Commander Evangeline Booth has written an authoritative history of the work done by the Salvation Army with the A. E. F. It will be called "The War Romance of the Salvation Army" and will be published shortly by the Lippincotts.

Little, Brown & Company will publish next month a complete narrative, profusely illustrated, of the 26th Division, entitled, "With the Yankee Division in France," written by Frank P. Sibley, who served as correspondent of the Boston Globe with the division throughout its months in France.

Harpers announce the second volume of their new "Opportunity Series," a book by Ellwood Hendrick on "Opportunities in Chemistry," which will treat the subject in general terms and from a practical standpoint. The first volume in the series, published a few weeks ago, was on "Opportunities in Farming," by Edward Owen Dean.

Brand Whitlock's "Belgium," although a large and expensive two-volume work, is announced by its publishers, D. Appleton & Co., to have entered its third edition within a week after publication.

Lieut. Col. Frederick Palmer is at work upon a book to be devoted to the closing phases of our military effort in the world war which will supplement and complete his former work, "America in France." It will be published in the Autumn by Dodd, Mead & Co.

The Macmillan Company will have ready H. G. Wells's new novel, "The Undying Fire," on May 22. One of the chapters is said to describe life inside a hunted German submarine.

The Century Company will publish about the end of this month Frederic Arnold Kummer's "The Battle of the Nations," a history of the war for young people which grew out of his attempt to keep an explanatory record of the events of the war for his own children.

INVESTMENT AND SPECULATION

THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE. By H. S. Martin. New York: F. E. Fitch.

This is a little book, but meaty, and worth the attention of all interested in the ways of Wall Street, and the annex market on the curb in Broad Street. The topic is not the Exchange itself, as the title implies, but the manner in which business is done there by brokers, by brokers with banks, and by customers with brokers. Those whose ideas of Wall Street's doings are formed by revelations of "the system" and the money trust by the Pujo Committee will find much to moderate their views in the summary of nine investigations, all of which found something to praise as well as to blame. It is not possible that the standards of Wall Street should be low when it is a fact that among the Exchange's 1,100 members the percentage of insolvencies is lower than among national banks. Nor, on the other hand, is it possible that there should not be black sheep on the Exchange itself, and still more among camp followers far more numerous than the Exchange members. Defense of the business ways of the big and little markets is only an incidental topic. The main subjects are the law and customs of "the Street," with counsels of caution for the rash and of wisdom for the expert. Amateurs will not find the book tedious, and there are more too experienced not to find in it much worth their attention.

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